(d) the number of complaints received regarding computerised reservation particularly during holidays/rush seasons and the activities of touts in important cities and details of remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) An annexure is attached. [See Appendix 174—Annexure No. 33]

(c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities is planned on an annual basis keeping in view the reservation workload and other relevant factors including feasibility and availability of reasources.

(d) During Jan.' 95 to June' 95 594 complaints regarding time taken to issue tickets on computer, non-allotment of lower berths/compact accommodation, refusal to issue tickets etc. were received in respect of computer reservation centers. As regards activities of louts, some complaints have come to notice. Surprise checks are conducted by deploying Ticket Checking Staff alongwith RPF/GRP personnel to curb the evil. During Jan. 95 to June' 95,799 touts were apprehended and suitable action was taken against them as per the provision of the Railway Act, 1989.

"Declaring Neem as National Tree"

1113. SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neem is regarded as a curer of practically all diseases of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Neem plays a very crucial role in providing ecologically sustainable solutions to the various problems being faced by the country at present; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to declare Neem as a National Tree and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Research so far has proved that Neem extracts and its derivatives have anti-protozoal anti-allergic, anti-dermatitic, anti-fungal and insecticidal properties;

(b) Use of natural plant products is considered to be a safe alternative to the synthetic chemicals. Biopesticides developed from Neem meet the ecological criteria due to their low or non toxic properties. Being broad spectrum in nature, they reduce the chances of pest becoming resistant. In additon, they are biodegradable also.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal in this Ministry to declare Neem as a National Tree.

Building International Opinion Against Kidnappings in Kashmir by Pak-Trained Militants

1114. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to build international opinion against kidnapping in Kashmir by the Pak-trained militants; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan to the cases of kidnappings in Kashmir by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Government have and will continue to take necessary measures to apprise the international community of Pakistan's support to terrorists including to those involved in kidnappings in Jammu and Kashmir.

Government have, during the course of usual ministerial, official and diplomatic exchanges with other countries informed

them about the true facts regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and of pakistan's support to trans-border terrorism.

(b) Government of Pakistan has in official statements expressed its concern regarding the recent kidnappings of foreign tourists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's statements in this regard are propagandistic and do not in any way alter the situation on ground, where Pakistan's active support and encouragement to cross-border terrorism against India continues unabated.

Proposal for de-reservation of Ice-Cream Industry

1115. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal for de-reservation of Ice-Cream Industry and for permitting integrated dairy units with investment upto Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, what are the provocating factors for such a move when the small scale sector is capable to meet the demand for ice-cream;

(c) whether such proposal would mean diversion of liquid milk to vulnerable section of the society during lean season; and

(d) whether Government had in December last objected to the manufacture of ice-cream by the cooperative sector, which handles most of the liquid milk processing and marketing to vulnerable sections of the society and if so, why this sudden clamour for reversal of its earlier decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) There is no proposal pending before the Government for permitting integrated dairy units with investment upto Rs. 500 crores to manufacture ice-cream which is reserved for small scale sector. Presently, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the ice-cream manufactured in the country is by the small scale units. While no specific survey regarding impact on supply of liquid milk to the vulnerable section of the society due to use of milk in manufacture of ice-cream has been made, presently, less than 1% of the total milk production is used for manufacture of ice-cream.

Cases of suicides in Tihar Jail

1116. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a number of suicides committed by inmates of Tihar Jail in the Capital this year; if so, the details of each case;

(b) whether these suicides were committed by undertrials who had been hauled up for small offences like thefts and were desperate for the delay in bringing them to trial or were tired of prolonged trial;

(c) the comparative figures for the last three years; and

(d) the steps contemplated to obviate the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of suicides committed by four inmates of Tihar Jail during the year 1995 are given in the enclosed statement. (*See below*)

(b) While one inmate was a convict undergoing life imprisonment, the